

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 18, 2008**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Drew Satariano, President, at 9:00 a.m., at the El Dorado Park West Community Center, in the Senior Center Library. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Drew Satariano, President
Brett Waterfield, Vice President
Simon George
Albert Guerra
Harry Saltzgaver
Bob Livingstone
Sarah Sangmeister

Absent: none

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Dennis Eschen, Manager of Planning and Development
Thomas Shippey, Manager of Maintenance Operations
Jane Grobaty, Community Information Officer
Sherri Nixon-Joiner, General Superintendent, Community Recreation Services
Lt. Dan Pratt, Park Rangers
Bill Greco, Supervising Park Ranger
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests: Gerrie Schipske, Councilwoman, 5th District
Andy Perez, Union Pacific
Leslie Markle, Arts Council for Long Beach

II. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- A. Andy Perez, from the Union Pacific Railroad, for supporting the Midnight Basketball Program.

Mr. Hester stated that as part of the budget process, the Department was in jeopardy of having to eliminate the Midnight Basketball program. The Mayor made a commitment to try and continue the program and reached out and asked for support. We are excited that Union Pacific, specifically Andy Perez, stepped forward to provide \$30,000 to fund the Midnight Basketball program for the next year at McBride Park. Union Pacific Railroad has worked with the Department on a number of other projects

in the past and really stepped forward to support the City for Midnight Basketball.

Mr. Perez stated that he is the Director of Port Affairs for Union Pacific and lives in Long Beach. He said he was hired to help enhance their image and do a better job with the community. His areas are the Port of Los Angeles, the Port of Long Beach and the Port of Oakland. He said he would like to recognize the Commissioners for their commitment, which is a big job. He mentioned the various projects that Union Pacific is helping the City with and said that Union Pacific is also planning to adopt Silverado Park. He thanked the Commission for their recognition.

President Satariano presented Mr. Perez with a framed photo from the check presentation ceremony.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 21, 2008

It was moved by Commissioner Sangmeister and seconded by Vice President Waterfield to approve the September 18, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

President Satariano said that he was going to move two items up on the agenda.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- C. Recommendation to approve the Master Plan Improvements for Rosie the Riveter Park.

Councilwoman Schipske said that she put together a foundation to raise money for this park. She spoke about the history of "Rosie the Riveters" and their background in Long Beach. She said that a landscape architect came up with a great plan for this park with monuments and she went on to describe the plan. She said that a donor has come forward with cherry trees for the park. She described the proposed walking self-tour.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked if the cherry trees would fit in with the Public Works' tree master plan?

Mr. Shippey responded that they are fine and the Department would work with Public Works.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked if there are any plans to deter skateboarders?

Mr. Hester responded that they have not gotten into plan details yet.

Mr. Eschen stated that he would keep that in mind for the plan.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Recommendation to approve the improvements for Good Neighbor Park.

Councilwoman Schipske stated that Department staff are phenomenal. They have really made sure that this park is family friendly and they have put it together so quickly. They are building the gazebo and have put in benches and trash cans. She said that when we get closer to the holidays we will have LED lights in the trees so that it will really give it a nice ambiance. This will be a great location for weddings, string concerts and so on. She thanked the Department for doing this. She said that this Sunday is her annual Good Neighbor Park Festival and Picnic. She said that the dedication of the park would take place at 10:30 a.m., and she would love to have the Commissioners attend. She said there are 51 organizations that are participating this year and she is really excited about this event.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked how the improvements were funded?

Mr. Hester responded that Partners of Parks participated in the gazebo and the Department paid for the benches.

Commissioner Guerra asked if recycle bins would be placed around this particular park? The words "Good Neighbor" mean good neighbor to the earth and good steward to the earth. Is that part of the plan?

Mr. Hester responded that we don't have that currently in the plan. The green bins program for the beaches and the marinas goes before the City Council in early October and goes to the Sustainability Committee next week for consideration. The Surfrider Foundation and all the environmental groups have signed on in support of this program, so our hope is that the City Council is OK with this concept. We might look at this program to include in the parks as a formal recycling program that the City could participate in.

Councilwoman Schipske said that would be a great addition.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Schipske said that she heard that this was Bob Livingstone's last Commission meeting and she wanted to personally thank him for all he has done. She said she has known him for many years.

President Satariano stated that they would go back to the regular order of the agenda.

IV. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#08-0901

Recommendation to authorize the Director or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed.

President Satariano stated that there were none this month.

#08-0902

Recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench in Alamitos Bay Marina Basin 4, in memory of Charles and Renata Treffry.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Vice President Waterfield to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

#08-0903

Recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench at the round-about near the Long Beach Yacht Club in memory of Richard Solomon.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

#08-0904

Recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench at Bluff Park at the corner of Coronado Avenue and Ocean Boulevard, in memory of Lorraine M. Lambert.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

#08-0905

Recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench near the Long Beach Yacht Club on Appian Way in memory of Jeffrey Scott Civalleri.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

President Satariano said that this is a great program, but he would like to suggest that people be encouraged to place memorial benches in other areas.

#08-0906

Authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute a permit for the operation of a picnic service concession with R.T. Clown, Inc., for a term of one year expiring on August 31, 2009, with options for renewal, subject to the discretion of the Director.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked if this was a new permit.

Ms. Nixon-Joiner responded yes, this is a new permit.

Commissioner Guerra asked if it gets to the point where there a lot of people applying for picnic service concessions permits?

Mr. Hester responded that it does not matter because the Department provides a list of approved providers to people wanting to have picnics in the parks.

Ms. Nixon-Joiner said that the Community Recreation Services Bureau has been working with Contract Management at expanding and reorganizing the whole picnic service concession process.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Livingstone to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President Satariano, Chair

President Satariano stated that they met and discussed the agenda.

Vice President Waterfield said that they also discussed the infrastructure bond and the need to get more information, as residents approach them.

President Satariano said that the Executive Committee has been asked to meet with the Mayor after today's Commission meeting, which may or may not happen due to the Mayor's schedule.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
President Satariano, Chair

President Satariano said that the Committee did not meet.

Mr. Hester mentioned that a financial report was included in the packet. He said that the Department staff has done a great job this year with the budget. The City Council approved the FY09 budget two weeks ago and the Department had a lot of challenges. The Mayor committed to keep the Midnight Basketball program open. The Police Athletic League (PAL) program will close. The North PAL facility would close as of October 1. The City Manager, supported by the City Council, has said that if the City can find a company to lease that building and pay the lease costs, the \$360,000 lease amount that the City pays would go into parks and recreation programs. Mr. Hester said that this is pretty huge. He said that the Boys and Girls Club has requested to operate at the Freeman PAL location and they are working directly with the Police Department on the transition. Mr. Hester said that the West PAL is still being discussed through the Police Department. The Boys and Girls Club has expressed an interest in this location also, because they have a facility at Admiral Kidd Park, which is close by. But, the Boys and Girls Club is looking for someone to pay for their staff and they would come over and run the boxing program. The West PAL may stay open, but the Department is not involved in this location either.

Mr. Hester mentioned that the City Council took approximately \$100,000 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding away from the City Prosecutor's office and gave it to our department to use to subsidize day camp programs. We think that a large number of the kids who come to the east side day camps actually come from the west side, because there is not enough space at the west side parks and because they can have their fees subsidized. He said that the Department would lose the mobile skate park program, but the mobile recreation program would continue in the CDBG areas. The Department would be reducing four management positions and some of the staff support. The biggest issue out there is the possible reduction of park rangers; we would be losing part-time rangers. We would end up with nine rangers and concentrating on the more active parks.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner Saltzgaver, Chair

Commissioner Saltzgaver stated that the Committee did not meet and that the report was included in the packet.

Mr. Bill Greco said that the annual Avon Walk for Breast Cancer was held this month and they stayed overnight in El Dorado Regional Park.

Commissioner Guerra asked if there is a special event charge for overnight security.

Mr. Greco responded yes, there is a special charge that is included in their special event permit fee.

D. MARKETING AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra stated that the Committee met with Jane Grobaty, who reviewed the marketing materials and production calendar for the upcoming year. He said that Ms. Grobaty and her staff need to decide what material they have to put out and what would be the best use of their resources. The foldout brochure was a very good resource for a lot of parents and families and it is important to get that out as early as possible.

Mr. Hester stated that it would probably be a good idea for the Commission to hear a presentation on what the Community Information Office does, at a future Commission meeting, to show everything that they do and how much they are needed.

Commissioner Guerra mentioned that there are several dead times on the City's cable channel and it would be a good idea to show a Department fact sheet during those times as a filler.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
Commissioner Livingstone, Chair

Commissioner Livingstone stated that the Committee did not meet. He said that there was a Marine Advisory Commission project update included in the packet, for the Commission's information.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE
Commissioner Sangmeister, Chair

Commissioner Sangmeister stated that the Committee did not meet.

G. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Livingstone, Chair

Commissioner Livingstone said that the Committee met and added items to their working plan. He said that there would be several policies coming forth in the next few months, which would be brought before the full Commission.

VI. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION**

A. Recommendation to receive and file the Director's Monthly Highlights Report for August 2008.

President Satariano asked for any comments or questions on the monthly report.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Livingstone to receive and file the Director's Monthly Report for August 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. **CORRESPONDENCE**

President Satariano said that they received the resignation letter from Commissioner Livingstone.

VIII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. PARTNERS OF PARKS REPORT – DIANE WILEY

President Satariano stated that he did not hear from Diane Wiley this month, as he did last month.

Ms. Grobaty stated that she received a message that Ms. Wiley was not able to attend this morning.

President Satariano said when he talked to Ms. Wiley last month, they discussed the Commission's desire to have her attend the Commission meetings as much as possible.

Commissioner Livingstone stated that they have not had a board meeting in the last two months, as they have decided to go to quarterly board meetings. He also said that September 30th is the Partners of Parks all day retreat where they will come up with three discussion items of what the next two years and five years will look like.

After discussion, Commissioner Saltzgaver said he would task the President of the Parks and Recreation Commission to make sure that a report be received from Partners of Parks at the October meeting.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Recommendation to approve the Citywide Redevelopment Agency Public Art Program.

Mr. Leslie Markle said that through the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency (RDA), the Arts Council of Long Beach sent out a call to artists for public art installations in 14 sites citywide. He said that 84 artists responded initially. Selected artists were paid to develop a concept from their proposals. Mr. Markle said that eight artists were confirmed to move forward with the projects. He said that of the proposed sites selected, two were park sites, Burton Chase Park and Grace Park. He went over all eight proposals and sites.

Commissioner Livingstone stated that he wanted to clarify that there would be additional funding from RDA for installation.

Mr. Markle responded yes.

Mr. Eschen stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission's authority is basically related to the two park sites, Burton Chase and Grace Park, which were chosen because they were funded by RDA.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Livingstone to approve the recommendation. The motion carried with Commissioner Sangmeister absent.

Mr. Hester said that he has had conversations with the RDA and if this proves to be successful, especially in park sites, we could talk about trying to encourage more art in parks.

- B. Recommendation to approve the art improvements at MacArthur Park as an appropriate improvement.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that a general contractor created the pedestal for this art piece without consulting the artist. Because the pedestal did not fit the art piece, it has delayed this project for almost a year. They did not even know it was on parkland when they started. There needs to be more communication during these projects.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation. The motion carried with Commissioner Sangmeister absent.

X. **COMMENTS**

A. AUDIENCE

President Satariano asked for comments from the audience. There were none.

B. STAFF

President Satariano asked for comments from the staff.

Mr. Hester stated that a letter was received from the California Association of Park and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members (CAPRCBM) requesting award nominations, which was included in the packet. He said that Commissioner Satariano received the award of Commissioner of the Year last year. The applications are due November 1.

President Satariano asked the Commissioners to take a look at the paperwork and make any suggestions to him and they would discuss this at the Executive Committee meeting.

Mr. Shippey said that this is probably his last Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. He wanted to let the Commissioners know that he has had a great eight and a half years with the Department. Maintenance has great staff and they will take care of everything.

Ms. Nixon-Joiner said that it has been a successful summer. She is not sure if people realize there will be no Halloween events.

Mr. Hester said that a flyer for the California Coastal Cleanup was included in the packet. There are seven locations in the city and they anticipate a lot of people attending.

C. COMMISSIONERS

President Satariano asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner George suggested that a copy of the Monthly Highlights be sent to the California State University, Long Beach library and to the Chancellor's office.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that the CAPRCBM fall meeting is on October 4, in Manhattan Beach and that he would be attending. He said he also agreed to become Treasurer of the Board. He mentioned that today's Grunion Gazette had an insert about seniors and this Department is prominently mentioned at least three times. We still do some pretty amazing things for seniors in this Department that are sometimes forgotten about.

Commissioner Livingstone stated that everyone probably received a copy of his resignation from the Commission, due to his acting position in the Department. He stated that this budget process has shown what a phenomenal job this department does. He mentioned that his grandmother worked in the Recreation Department years ago and this department has meant so much to him. He is looking forward to the opportunity to serve and work as staff to the operation.

Vice President Waterfield thanked President Satariano for coming to CSULB and serving on a panel discussing civic engagement and speaking about the responsibilities of professionals and citizens to be engaged in the community. He discussed his work with the Commission and Sea Festival. In addition, he said that he got a phone call from a group who is interested in providing a Halloween Carnival at one of the parks. He said he would put them in touch with Ms. Nixon-Joiner.

President Saltzgaver said that he would miss Bob; he has been a great Commissioner. He spoke of a desire in the Mayor's office to diversify the Commission with other districts. We wish Bob well.

X. **NEXT MEETING**

President Satariano stated that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, October 16, 2008, at the Bixby Park Community Center, in Social Hall #2, 130 Cherry Avenue, Long Beach.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

President Satariano adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Assistant to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine